

Lesson 6

Contentment: Possessions

REFLECT

1. What are the things that are the most valuable in life?
2. How would you describe a person who is content?

REVIEW

Read the following story silently, while your teacher reads it out loud. Then answer the response questions.

The Magic Fish

Once upon a time there was a poor fisherman who lived in an old hut by the sea. One day when he was fishing in the ocean, he caught a large fish, but when he went to take it out of the water, the fish cried, "Put me back in the water! I am a magic fish!"

"Well," said the man, "if you are a magic fish, I will put you back into the water." And he did.

That night, his wife asked him why he hadn't caught any fish. He said, "I did catch a fish, but it was a magic fish, so I put him back in the water."

"Why didn't you ask for a wish?" asked the wife. "Go back and ask him for a pretty house."

Even though the fisherman didn't want to, he went back to the sea and called to the fish. He asked for a wish from the magic fish.

"What do you want?" asked the magic fish.

"My wife wants a pretty house," said the fisherman.

"Go home," said the magic fish. "You have your wish."

The wife was content with her pretty house for about a week. Then she decided that she wanted more, so she told her husband to go back to the magic fish and tell him that she wanted to live in a castle. Even though the fisherman did not want to go, he went back to find the magic fish.

"What does your wife want now?" asked the fish.

"She wants to live in a castle," replied the fisherman.

"Go home, she has her wish," said the magic fish.

The wife was happy with her castle for about two weeks. Then she decided that she wanted more, so she told her husband to go back to the magic fish and ask him to make her queen of the land. Even though the fisherman did not want to go, he went back to find the magic fish.

"What does your wife want now?" asked the fish.

"She wants to be queen of the land," answered the fisherman.

"Go home, your wife has her wish," responded the fish.

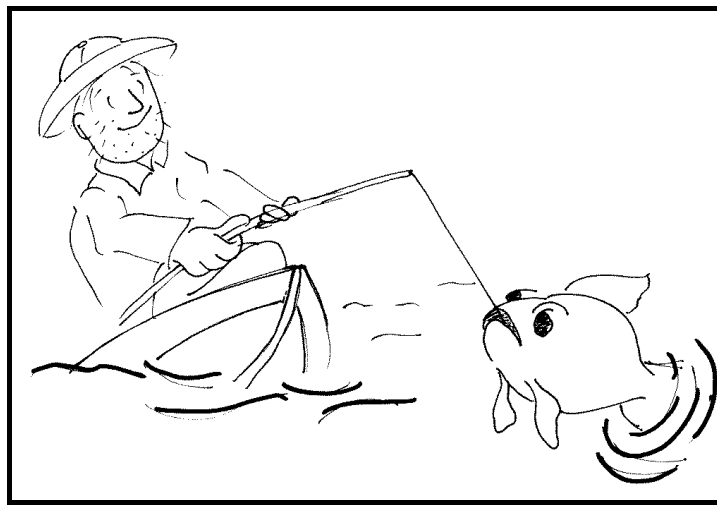
The wife was happy to be dressed in gold from head-to-toe. She enjoyed being queen for about three weeks. Then she decided that she wanted more so she told her husband to go back to the magic fish and tell him that she wanted to be queen of the sun, moon and stars. Even though the fisherman didn't want to go, he went back to find the magic fish.

"What does she want this time?" asked the magic fish.

"She wants to be queen of the sun, moon and stars," admitted the fisherman.

"NO! She wants too much. She cannot be queen of the sun, moon and stars. Now she must go back to the old hut," replied the fish. So the fisherman went home to his old hut.

Adapted from: The Magic Fish by Freya Littledale, New York: Scholastic Inc., 1966.



RESPOND

1. How is the fisherman's wife like many people?

2. Rockefeller, an American who was one of the richest men who ever lived, was once asked the question: "How much money is enough?" His response? "A little bit more." What do you think about this comment?

REACT

You will be assigned a position of either agreeing or disagreeing about the following American expressions. You must come up with support for your position.

- ◆ Money can't buy happiness.
- ◆ Money is the root of all evil.
- ◆ You cannot love both God and money.
- ◆ To possess nothing is to be truly rich.

ROLE PLAY

What would you do if you won a large amount of money? The rule is that if you won, you could only keep half the money and you must give the other half away to help others. What would you do with the half you gave away? Use information from the Grammar Point to help you as you present your information.

Grammar Point: Conditional Statements

If I ...I would...

If I won a large amount of money, **I would** give some to my family so that they could buy a house.

RELATE

1. What are you most content with in your life? With what are you most discontent?

2. What can you do to become more content in the areas in which you lack contentment?